

PRESS RELEASE

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**Local High School Accounting Teachers Awarded For Passion and
Contribution in Classroom and Beyond**

*Utah CPA Education Foundation recognizes two outstanding accounting teachers who
instill lessons for life*

SALT LAKE CITY – June 11, 2008 – Shauna Ward of Davis High School in Kaysville and Ed Mondragon of Hillcrest High in Midvale were recognized today by the Utah CPA Education Foundation as high school teachers who have done an outstanding job of teaching accounting principles in the classroom, and who have developed and maintained a strong accounting program in the school. Ward, the recipient of the “Champion of the Profession Award,” received a \$1,000 cash award and Mondragon, recipient of the “Rising Star Award,” received a \$500 cash award.

The Utah CPA Education Foundation is a non-profit corporation that enriches the lives of CPAs by providing opportunities to share knowledge, expertise and financial resources with students, teachers, other CPA professionals and those less fortunate. The Foundation honored the award recipients in front of 350 of their peers at the Utah State Office of Education’s Business Education Summer Conference at Syracuse High School.

“Accounting skills are valuable life skills,” said Wendy Martin, board member of the Utah CPA Education Foundation. “These annual awards give us the opportunity to reward high school teachers who do their absolute best to build enthusiasm for and knowledge of accounting to a prime audience.”

Continued Martin, “We’re proud to recognize Mr. Mondragon and Ms. Ward for all that they do, and are optimistic their keenness for the profession will encourage high school students to pursue accounting in higher education and beyond.”

Ward and Mondragon were two of many interested teachers who submitted applications to win the two awards. The accounting teachers needed to provide evidence of recruitment strategies, curriculum development, and class projects to demonstrate why he or she was most worthy of recognition.

Shauna Ward’s passion for accounting is evident in her decision to *teach* accounting instead of becoming a CPA, as well as the heavy course load she carries each year at Davis High - Ward considers her work a dream job. Her students are heavily involved in accounting-related activities outside of the classroom, and her Accounting 1 and 2 students all pass the Utah State Office of Education CTW Accounting Skills Test at a level well above the state average. Ward integrates special projects into her curriculum like a version of Monopoly she created specifically for her Accounting 1 class. She is gratified knowing that her work teaches students skills that will benefit both their personal and professional lives.

Mondragon, the “Rising Star” award winner, rose above his competition by recognizing that his students are on the starting blocks to blaze their personal career paths; he sees high school a prime location for them to learn a basic understanding of accounting and its purposes. Career awareness and technology are cornerstones of Mondragon’s lesson plans. And, despite the few classes Hillcrest High’s business department is able to devote to accounting, two of Mondragon’s students pursued summer employment in the accounting field after taking his class.

For more information about the Utah CPA Education Foundation, or the Rising Star and Champion of the Profession awards, visit: uacpa.org.

About the Utah CPA Education Foundation

The Utah CPA Education Foundation was formed by the Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants (UACPA) in 1999 as a non-profit corporation to provide financial support and resources for activities focused on supporting education in the broader public. Besides assisting business and accounting teachers, the Foundation supports outreach to accounting students at each of Utah’s universities and colleges to encourage them throughout their accounting career decisions. Additionally, the Foundation provides support to the UACPA Financial Literacy task force made up of volunteers who teach financial literacy at the VA Hospital and the Salvation Army. To contribute to the foundation, or learn more, visit: uacpa.org.

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